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## Architect of Reagan's policy familiar with standing alone

As far back as graduate school at Johns Hopkins University, Chester Crocker was seen as a loner, a conservative among liberals.

In many ways, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs is still odd man out.

The architect of the Reagan administration's South African policy of "constructive engagement," Crocker, 44, has been attacked by groups across the political spectrum, in the USA and abroad.

Under the policy, the Reagan administration works to avoid punitive actions against South Africa, while trying to move the country

away from apartheid, South Africa's racist system of government-imposed segregation that discriminates against the black majority.

Despite repeated rumors of his departure — and calls for his resignation — the former director of African studies at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., has held his post in the administration since 1981.

A former National Security Council staffer, Crocker also served as a consultant to the CIA during his years at Georgetown.

— Beverly Canerdy